(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof;

(c) whether it is not a diversion from the non-alignment policy of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. The three services have neither reached any agreement with the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) nor do they propose to do so.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Meeting of Indo-China Joint Working Group in Terrorism

5332. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Working Group of India and China had met to deliberate upon counter terrorism measures;

(b) if so, the scope and framework of the dialogue;

(c) whether Pak cross-border terrorism also figured in the talks; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The first meeting of the annual India-China dialogue mechanism on counter terrorism was held in New Delhi on 23 April, 2002. Both sides shared their national experiences on dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism, exchanged views on the international counter terrorism situation including developments in the region, cooperation at the United Nations and possibilities of bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed that the first meeting of the dialogue mechanism was useful in enhancing mutual understanding. The next round is expected to be held in Beijing early next year.

Educated unemployed youth in M.P.

5333. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth registered in various employment exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of educated youth passing out from the colleges and universities in the State who are in search of job, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken so far, by Government to provide employment to the edcuated unemployed persons/youths of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of educated (Xth and above standard) job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchange in Madhya Pradesh as on December 1999, 2000 & 2001 was of the order of 14.1, 13.8 and 14.5 lakh respectively.

(b) All the educated youth passing out from the colleges and universities in the state may not necessarily be seeking employment through employment exchanges. However, the number of educated (Xth and above standard) job-seekers, all of whom are not necessary unemployed, who got themselves registered in the Employment Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during 1999, 2000 & 2001 was of the order of 3.1, 2.4 and 3.5 lakh respectively.

(c) Employment generation is part of the five-year plans. The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

In addition, Government is implementing Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas. These measures will help both educated and uneducated unemployed persons throghout the country.

Pitiable conditions of salt labourers

5334. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the pitiable condition of labourers working in the field of salt in the coastal areas;